

May 19, 2015

Dear Senators,

The undersigned food and agriculture organizations urge your rejection of the amendment offered by Senators Rob Portman (R-OH) and Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) that would require enforceable currency provisions in trade agreements (SA1299). This amendment, if adopted, would most likely kill the TPP negotiations.

The economic well-being of American agriculture depends on maintaining strong export markets and creating new market access opportunities. Export markets are in large part the result of trade agreements negotiated over the past two decades. Since 1989, when the U.S. began using bilateral and regional trade agreements to open foreign markets, U.S. agricultural exports have nearly quadrupled in value and reached a record \$150.5 billion in 2014.

The U.S. is now in the home stretch of closing the Trans-Pacific Partnership. The TPP has the potential to be the most economically significant regional Free Trade Agreement (FTA) ever negotiated. Unfortunately, the huge potential export and job gains through the TPP will not be realized if this amendment is adopted.

We join with Treasury Secretary Jack Lew and 10 former Treasury heads and the business community in urging you to reject Senate Amendment 1299.

Sincerely,

American Farm Bureau Federation  
American Feed Industry Association  
American Peanut Council  
American Potato Trade Alliance  
American Soybean Association  
Cargill, Incorporated  
Grocery Manufacturers Association  
International Dairy Foods Association  
National Corn Growers Association  
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives  
National Milk Producers Federation  
National Oilseed Processors Association  
National Pork Producers Council  
National Potato Council  
National Renderers Association

National Turkey Federation  
North American Equipment Dealers Association  
North American Meat Institute  
Northwest Horticultural Council  
Pet Food Institute  
Smithfield  
U.S. Dairy Export Council  
U.S. Livestock Genetics Export, Inc.  
United States Hide, Skin and Leather Association  
Western Growers Association